

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A face shield assembly comprising:
 - a protective element including an edge;
 - a frame ~~mountable to a support structure and~~ including a top portion, a bottom portion and a side portion, the frame further including:
 - a) an opening sized to fit the protective element, the opening defined by an upper inner edge, a lower inner edge, and side inner edges of the frame;
 - b) a lip spaced from the upper, lower and side inner edges so as to form a channel constructed and arranged to receive a portion of the edge of the protective element; and~~wherein the frame lacks fasteners to secure the protective element, and the channel supports the protective element such that the protective element is removably attached to the frame so as to protect a user's face~~ a support structure constructed and arranged to support the frame and adapted to be worn by a user;
 - wherein the support structure includes a fixed mounting member that cooperates with an adjustable mounting member, said fixed and adjustable mounting members being supported between an inner surface of each side portion of the frame and opposite sides of the support structure;
 - wherein the mounting member further includes a pin that is selectively engageable with at least two notches in order to restrain the face shield in one of an upper or lower position.
2. (Currently Amended) The face shield assembly of claim 1, wherein the frame further comprises:
 - c) an upper detent supported by the frame;
 - d) a lower detent supported by the frame; andwherein the upper and lower detents aid in placement of the lens protective element.

3. (Currently Amended) A face shield assembly comprising:
a protective element including an edge;
a frame mountable to a support structure and including a top portion, a bottom portion
and a side portion, the frame further including:
a) an opening sized to fit the protective element, the opening defined by an upper inner
edge, a lower inner edge, and side inner edges of the frame;
b) a lip spaced from the upper, lower and side inner edges so as to form a channel
constructed and arrange to receive a portion of the edge of the protective element;
c) an upper detent supported by the frame;
d) a lower detent supported by the frame; and
wherein the frame lacks fasteners to secure the protective element, and the channel
supports the protective element such that the protective element is removably attached to the
frame so as to protect a user's face ~~The face shield assembly of claim 2;~~ wherein the upper detent
is supported on approximately the center of the upper inner edge of the frame, and the lower
detent is supported on approximately the center of the lower inner edge of the frame.
4. (Currently amended) A face shield assembly comprising:
a protective element including an edge;
a frame mountable to a support structure and including a top portion, a bottom portion
and a side portion, the frame further including:
a) an opening sized to fit the protective element, the opening defined by an upper inner
edge, a lower inner edge, and side inner edges of the frame;
b) a lip spaced from the upper, lower and side inner edges so as to form a channel
constructed and arrange to receive a portion of the edge of the protective element;
c) an upper detent supported by the frame;
d) a lower detent supported by the frame; and
wherein the frame lacks fasteners to secure the protective element, and the channel
supports the protective element such that the protective element is removably attached to the

frame so as to protect a user's face ~~The face shield assembly of claim 1,~~ wherein the lip includes ~~one or more~~ a plurality of spacedly disposed transverse ridges that project into the channel.

5. (Original) The face shield assembly of claim 1, wherein the protective element is a lens.
6. (Original) The face shield assembly of claim 5, wherein the lens has a continuous, planar surface.
7. (Original) The face shield assembly of claim 5, wherein the lens has a continuous outer edge.
8. (Original) The face shield assembly of claim 1, wherein the frame is formed as a single, unitary member.
9. (Currently Amended) The face shield assembly of claim 1, wherein the opening ~~extends from an approximate centerline of the field toward the edges of the face shield and~~ is sized such that the frame does not obstruct the peripheral vision of the user.
10. (Canceled)
11. (Currently Amended) The face shield assembly of claim ~~10~~ 1, wherein ~~the support structure includes a mounting member comprising a~~ the fixed mounting element is supported on ~~an~~ the inner surface of each side portion of the frame, and ~~a corresponding,~~ the adjustable mounting element is supported on opposite sides of the support structure.
12. (Currently Amended) A face shield assembly comprising:
a protective element including an edge;

a frame mountable to a support structure and including a top portion, a bottom portion and a side portion, the frame further including:

a) an opening sized to fit the protective element, the opening defined by an upper inner edge, a lower inner edge, and side inner edges of the frame;

b) a lip spaced from the upper, lower and side inner edges so as to form a channel constructed and arranged to receive a portion of the edge of the protective element;

c) an upper detent supported by the frame;

d) a lower detent supported by the frame; and

wherein the frame lacks fasteners to secure the protective element, and the channel supports the protective element such that the protective element is removably attached to the frame so as to protect a user's face

further comprising a support structure constructed and arranged to support the frame and adapted be worn by a user

wherein the support structure includes a mounting member comprising a fixed mounting element supported on an inner surface of each side portion of the frame, and a corresponding, adjustable mounting element supported on opposite sides of the support structure ~~The face shield assembly of claim 11;~~ wherein the mounting member includes a pin that is selectively engageable with at least two notches in order to restrain the face shield in one of an upper or lower position.

13. (Original) The face shield assembly of claim 12, wherein the pin is supported on the fixed mounting element and the at least two notches are formed in the adjustable mounting element.

14. (Original) The face shield assembly of claim 12, further comprising a pair of stops for limiting movement of the face shield frame.

15. (Original) The face shield assembly of claim 11, wherein the mounting member further comprising a pair of mounting holes constructed and arranged to allow the user to adjust the spacing of the lens relative to the user's face.

16. Canceled

17. Canceled

18. Canceled

19. (Currently Amended) A face shield assembly comprising:

a lens protective element including a continuous outer edge;

a frame constructed and arranged as a single, unitary member, the frame ~~being mountable to a support structure and~~ including a top portion, a bottom portion and a side portion, the frame further including:

a) an opening sized to fit the ~~protective element~~ lens, the opening defined by an upper inner edge, a lower inner edge, and side inner edges of the frame;

b) ~~a channel constructed and arranged~~ means to receive a portion of the edge of the protective element ~~and~~

~~wherein the frame lacks fasteners to secure the protective element, and the channel supports the protective element such that the protective element is removably attached to the frame so as to protect a user's face;~~

a support structure constructed and arranged to support the frame and adapted to be worn by a user ; and

an adjusting knob;

wherein the support structure includes a mounting member comprising a fixed mounting element secured to an inner surface of each side portion of the frame, and a corresponding, adjustable mounting element secured to an outer surface on opposite sides of the support structure;

wherein the adjustable mounting element further comprises at least a pair of mounting holes selectively engageable with at least said adjusting knob and constructed and arranged to allow the user to adjust the spacing of the protective element relative to the user's face.

20. (Currently Amended) The face shield assembly of claim 19, wherein the protective element comprises lens ~~has~~ having a continuous, ~~planar~~ surface.

21. (Previously Presented) The face shield assembly of claim 19, wherein the frame further comprises:

c) an upper detent supported by the frame;

d) a lower detent supported by the frame; and

wherein the upper and lower detents aid in placement of the lens.

22. (Previously Presented) The face shield assembly of claim 19, further comprising a lip spaced from the upper, lower and side inner edges so as to form the channel.

23. (Previously Presented) The face shield assembly of claim 22, wherein the lip includes one or more ridges that project into the channel to aid in securing the lens.

24. (Previously Presented) The face shield assembly of claim 19, wherein the opening extends from an approximate center line of the frame and is sized so that the frame does not obstruct the peripheral vision of the user.

25. (Canceled)

26. (New) The face shield assembly of claim 19 wherein the fixed mounting element has a boss that is engageable with either of said mounting holes and that receives a pin means of said adjustable knob.

27. (New) The face shield assembly of claim 26 wherein said adjustable mounting element further includes at least two notches that are selectively engageable in order to restrain the face shield in one of an upper or lower position.

28. (New) A face shield assembly comprising:

- a protective element including a continuous outer edge;

- a frame constructed and arranged as a single, unitary member, the frame including a top portion, a bottom portion and a side portion, the frame further including:

- a) an opening sized to fit the lens, the opening defined by an upper inner edge, a lower inner edge, and side inner edges of the frame;

- b) means to receive a portion of the edge of the protective element;

- wherein the frame lacks fasteners to secure the protective element, and the channel supports the protective element such that the protective element is removably attached to the frame so as to protect a user's face;

- a support structure constructed and arranged to support the frame and adapted to be worn by a user ; and

- a single adjusting knob;

- wherein the support structure includes a mounting member comprising a fixed mounting element secured to an inner surface of each side portion of the frame, a corresponding, adjustable mounting element secured to an outer surface on opposite sides of the support structure and means for selectively interconnecting the fixed and adjustable mounting elements via the adjusting knob including engageable notch and pin means for setting different relative positions between the frame and support structure.

29. (New) The face shield assembly of claim 28, wherein said protective element comprises a lens.

30. (New) The face shield assembly of claim 29, wherein the adjustable mounting element further comprises at least a pair of mounting holes selectively engageable with at least said adjusting knob and constructed and arranged to allow the user to adjust the spacing of the lens relative to the user's face.